Financial and Marketing problems of A.P. Farmers

2144. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of financial difficulties of Andhra Pradesh farmers due to low and unremunerative prices fetched by their paddy, oil-seeds and palm oil and the marketing difficulties faced by them;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought intervention of Prime Minister and concerned Ministries for stabilization of prices of aforesaid products and suggested certain measures in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of measures suggested; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government to mitigate the sufferings of Andhra Pradesh farmers and implementing measures suggested by the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The action taken by the Government, to mitigate the financial and marketing problems of Andhra Pradesh farmers, is as under:

(i) The validity of the concenssions allowed by the Central Government during kharif marketing season 2000-2001 relating to specification of paddy/rice has already been extended upto 30th September, 2001.

(ii) *Provision of funds of FCI:* The liquidity crisis prevailing in FCI has since been resolved. The Food Corporation Act, 1964 has been amended through an ordinance, notified on 22nd May 2001 by removal of cap on its book borrowings enabling the Corporation to borrow funds by hypothecation of proportionate food stocks;

(iii) *Increase in procurement target of rice:* The procurement of levy rice in Andhra Pradesh upto 06.08.2001 has been 65.77 lakh tonnes as against 51.69 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year. Considering the request of the State

Government, it has been decided to raise the levy target to 70 lakh tonnes, and necessary order in this regard has already been issued to FCI.

(iv) *Storage Capacity:* Based on the present requirement, the FCI has identified seven places in Andhra Pradesh for creation of conventional storage capacity of 70,000 MTs through private sector participation, for which "Expression of Interest" (EoI) was invited by FCI during March, 2001.

(v) *Release of rice under Antyodaya Anna Yojana:* Andhra Pradesh is being allotted 155570 tonnes of rice per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) from March, 2001 onwards. Allocation of foodgrains for Antyodaya, BPL and APL and TPDS has been made to the State upto September, 2001.

(vi) The Government has taken steps to increase export of rice and maize.

(vii) Under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), the Government has procured the following quantities of oilseeds, oil palm and red chilies from Andhra Pradesh:

Procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses under PSS/MIS in Andhra Pradesh

	Commodity	Season	Quantity (MTs)
PSS	Safflower	Rabi 2000	360
	Sunflower	Kharif 1999	11588
		Rabi 2000	—
		Kharif 2000	4449
	Soyabean	Kharif 2000	1435
	Copra-2000	FAQ & SG (milling)	16257
		Ball	3
	Groundnut	Kharif 2000	28380

	Commodity	Season	Quantity (MTs)
MIS	Oil palm	1999-2000	65000
	Oil palm	2000-01	105000*
	Red chilies	2001-02	15000@

* still continuing

@ sanctioned quantity, procurement figure not yet received.

Insurance and Pension Scheme for Agricultural Laboures

2145. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced an insurance and pension scheme for the benefit of agricultural landless labourers in the country;

(b) if so, how the landless agricultural labourers would become eligible for insurance and pensionary benefits; and

(c) what is the number of landless agricultural labourers and the district that would be covered under the first phase of launching the scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government has launched "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001" for the benefit of agricultural landless labourers in the country. This Scheme will be implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in a phased manner covering life-cum-accident insurance, pension and superannuation benefits and money back benefits.

(b) Agricultural workers between the age of 18 years to 50 years are eligible to avail the benefits of the Scheme. The workers will contribute Rs. 1 per day and the Government of India will contribute Rs. 2 per day under the Scheme.

(c) Initially, the Scheme will be implemented in 50 District of country covering atleast one District from each State and 10 lakh agricultural workers over a span of three years.